NOTE XXX.

ON A NEW SPECIES OF HYRAX (HYRAX STAMPFLII) FROM LIBERIA.

BY

Dr. F. A. JENTINK.

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In the P. Z. S. L. of the year 1852, p. 99, we find a description of a new *Hyrax* from Fernando-Po by Fraser. This new species, *Hyrax dorsalis*, is rather insufficiently described and the figures (Plate XXXIII) have no value at all. In the following year, 1853, Temminck published his »Esquisses Zoologiques sur la Côte de Guinée" and described a new species of *Hyrax*, *H. sylvestris;* Temminck was evidently not acquainted with Fraser's *Hyrax*, he only knew *Hyrax syriacus*, *capensis* and *arboreus*. Now I am convinced that Temminck's species is the same as Fraser's and although Temminck's description is very extensive and clear, meanwhile this cannot be said of that of Fraser, the latter having the priority of some months, the species in question ought to be called *H. dorsalis*.

In Temminck's paper however is a mistake born by the fact that he had not a skull of an adult specimen. So he writes: »le nombre des molaires aux deux mâchoires est de *six* dans *sylvestris*; dans *arboreus*, ainsi que chez les autres espèces, l'état normal est de *sept* partout." I have removed the skull of an adult specimen, one of Temminck's

types, and this skull shows *seven* molars in each jaw like in fullgrown specimens of the other species, *arboreus*, *syriacus* and *capensis*.

Dr. Gray (Catalogue of Carnivorous, Pachydermatous and Edentate Mammalia, 1869, p. 281) said that Dr. G. v. Jaeger figured the interparietal of a species sent from West Africa by Mr. Dieterle, which he (Jaeger) names *H. sylvestris*, and (l. c. p. 284) that Dr. v. Jaeger called a species, collected in West Africa, *Hyrax silvestris*, that it may be a *new* species of the genus *Dendrohyrax*, and that Dr. Jaeger described it in the Würzb. naturw. Jahresb. XVI. p. 162, t. 2, f. 15.

Now I must remark that a journal with such a title does not exist at all, but I find in the Jahreshefte des Vereins für väterländische Naturkunde in Württemberg, 1860, p. 168, in a paper by Dr. v. Jaeger: »Mit der Beschaffenheit der Milchzähne und Ersatzzähne bei *H. capensis* kommt nach Wagner die bei *H. silvestris* Temminck stattfindende nicht überein, indem die Zahl der Milchbackzähne nur 3, die der Ersatzzähne nur 6 betragen soll." Von Jaeger therefore has not given the name *sylvestris* to this species, but only *quoted* the species described by Temminck.

Mr. Stampfli procured a *Hyrax* in Liberia; it was preserved in spirits and now it is mounted and its skeleton has been removed. As I saw it in spirits I thought that it was a *Hyrax dorsalis* Fraser (*Hyrax sylvestris* Temminck), but at present I see that it belongs to a hitherto not described species and I propose to name it *Hyrax stampflii*. It belongs to the group of Hyraces called *Dendrohyrax*, characterized by having a white [1]) dorsal spot and an

1) Dr. Gray (Catalogue, p. 292) states that *Dendrohyrax dorsalis* has the dorsal spot elongate, *pure white*, that (l. c. p. 293) *Dendrohyrax arboreus* has a central *white* dorsal streak, but that (l. c. p. 293) the young specimen of *D. arboreus* is at once known from the young of *D. dorsalis* by the want of the *dark* dorsal streak! Who can here find out Dr. Gray's *lapsus calami?*

elongate *diastema* (distance between incisor and first premolar of the *lower* jaw). To this section belong also *Hyrax arboreus* Smith and *Hyrax dorsalis* Fraser. *Hyrax arboreus* has a hairy nose; body with soft reddish fulvous fur, underside of body white. *Hyrax dorsalis* has the upper half of the nose hairy; body with long rather rigid rich golden reddish brown fur, underside of body bright brown. *Hyrax stampflii* has a bare nose; body with short not rigid black hairs, underside of body brown.

Hyrax stampflii, n. sp.

Description of an adult female, the type of the species: Size and shape of a fullgrown *Hyrax dorsalis*. The fur is nearly as soft as that of *Hyrax arboreus:* on the back the hairs are black with a purplish tinge, browner on head, sides of body and extremities, brown on the belly: on the back the hairs are entirely black, but among them are some others with a purplish tip: the hairs of the other parts are black but always tipped with purplish brown on head, sides of body and extremities, with large brown tips on the belly. Nose up to a line drawn between the fore corner of the eyes and also a circle round the eyes bare. The spot on the back is a small and elongate white streak: each hair black to the base with a very large white tip. The hairs forming this streak on the back are very long, meanwhile the other hairs are rather short, much shorter than in the other *Dendrohyrax*-species.

The skeleton presents 7 cervicales, 20 costales, 9 lumbares, 5 sacrales and 8 caudales.

Dentition: I. $\frac{1-1}{2-2}$,[1]) C. $\frac{0}{0}$, P. $\frac{4-4}{4-4}$, M. $\frac{3-3}{3-3}$. Upper

1) Dr. Gray (l. c. p. 291) relates that the *canine* of the adult series is trigonal, with the keel in front as in the true Hyraces. This clearly is a mistake, for there is no *Hyrax* known with *canines;* the upper incisors are *canine*-like.

incisors rounded in front; at a small distance from the back edge of the upper incisors there is on each side a small hole, indicating the second (deciduous) upper incisor: lower incisors trilobed, separated into pairs. The upper grinders in nearly parallel series, the lower ones parallel. The skull presents many differences with that part of the skeleton of *Hyrax dorsalis*, better to demonstrate by figures than by long descriptions: I hope to give some figures of this skull in the *Catalogue ostéologique du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle* now in the press, and to exhibit the anomalous form of the *interparietal*, the form of *foramen magnum*, of the *coronoid process* [1]) and of the *angle* of the lower jaw.

Hab. Liberia, Junkriver, Schieffelinsville. Collected by Mr. F. X. Stampfli, 3rd February 1886. It has been captured in a cavern of a very high rock, called Chap-hill, opposite Schieffelinsville.

1) I express my thanks to Mr. Oldfield Thomas of the British Museum, who made for me a drawing of the *coronoid process* of the skull of the type-specimen of *Hyrax dorsalis* Fraser. This skull has been figured in Gray's Hand-list of the Edentate, Thick-Skinned and Ruminant Mammals, 1873, pl. XIII, fig. 1, but in that figure the part in question is concealed by the *zygoma*.